

PRINTER COMPARISON

MAKE/MODEL	PRICE	PRINT SPEED	PRINT QUALITY
SEIKOSHA AS 1200	R649.00	120 cps (draft) 22 cps (NLQ) 63 cps (draft pica)	NLQ 32 X 18 Draft Mode 12 X 9 NLQ Switch Selectable 6 kinds of character
STAR GEMINI 10X	R699.00	120 cps bidirectional printing with logical seeking	9 x 9 standard 18 x 9 emphasized 18 x 18 double strike 6 x 6 block letters
STAR NL10	R925.00	120 cps data processing quality.	9 x 11 data processing quality
INTERFACE CARD	R149.00	30 cps NLQ logic seeking. 16 lps (during form feed operation)	NLQ 18 x 23 switchable Character fonts switch selectable
EPSON LX-86	R889.00	120 cps draft quality 20 cps NLQ	NLQ selected by switch or software Draft
TIMEX 2040	R199.00	32 cps	
EPSON GX-80	R675.00	100 cps draft 16 cps NLQ	

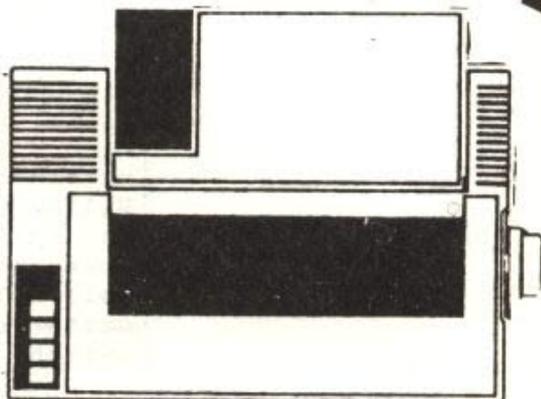
PRINTER COMPARISON

INTERFACE	Character Attributes	OTHER FEATURES	BUFFER
Parallel-centronics compatible Standard Serial RS2323	Double width, Bold, Double Strike, Italics, Superscript, Subscript, Underline	Automatic paper loading and ejection. Paper width 4-10", fanfold and cut sheets	2-3K 8K buffer optional
Standard Parallel Optional Serial	Elite, Condensed, Emphasized, Double Strike, Italics, Superscript, Subscript, Underline	Self test Macro Instruction Column Scan Bit image graphics Tabs	4K 8K optional
Parallel	Elite, Condensed, Enlarged, Italic, 11 International Sets (all selectable by software, 8 by dip switch)	semi-automatic single sheet insertion friction and tractor plug-in interface	5K
Parallel Serial Optional IEEE Optional	Pica, Elite, Roman correspondence, Italics, Emphasized Double Strike, Enlarged, Condensed, Super- and Subscript, 11 International sets	160 characters per line automatic paper feed paper size 454mm graphics 25cm	1K
Built in interface ONLY FOR SPECTRUM		thermal printer	
Parallel Serial Interface available.		80 column IBM graphics compatible	1K

PRINTER COMPARISON

MAKE/MODEL	RIBBON PRICE AND GUARANTEE	VALUE FOR MONEY
SEIKOSHA AS 1200	R22.00 6 MONTHS	* * * *
STAR GEMINI 10X	R4.50 6 MONTHS	* * *
STAR NL10	R33.00 6 MONTHS	* * * * *
EPSON LX-86	R17.90 6 MONTHS	* * *
TIMEX 2040	NONE (thermal paper costs R6.99/ roll) 100 days	
EPSON GX-80	R17.90 6 months	* * *

SEIKOSHA



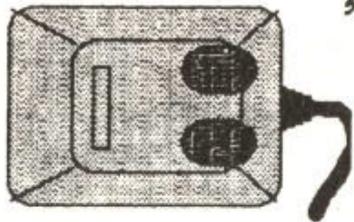
Star NL-10
LX-86

star[☆]

COMPILED BY ANN
GOUVERNEUR

ABC Elektronik Mouse

for the SINCLAIR QL



Giga - Basic

A totally new type of Basic extension for the QL.
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- ◆ Easily programmable *MACINTOSH* style pull down menus.
- ◆ Very sophisticated spritanimation commands.
- ◆ Programmable function keys.
- ◆ Comfortable texteditor like Basiceditor with 20 functions.
- ◆ Commands to program real windows (with background refreshing)



E. A. S. E.

Easily Applicable System Environment

- ◆ E.A.S.E. is completely mousedriven.
- ◆ E.A.S.E. supports real pulldownmenus.
- ◆ E.A.S.E. can work with up to 7 real windows.
- ◆ E.A.S.E. has an inbuilt scientific calculator.
- ◆ E.A.S.E. has an inbuilt puzzle game.
- ◆ E.A.S.E. gives you full I/O control, all functions can easily be accessed by using the mouse.
- ◆ E.A.S.E. windows can be scrolled and moved across the screen. The size of a window can be changed by using the mouse.

WIMPS - windows, icons, mice and pointers - have been a part of the computing environment long enough for the initial excitement surrounding their introduction to have subsided. Microsoft's Gem and Apple's Mac have both proved the desirability of such systems, while at the same time setting the standard for those to follow.

The ABC Elektronik Mouse package comprises the mouse, EASE software on Microdrive, and Giga-Basic, a Superbasic extension. The two-button mouse is neat - about the size of a cigarette packet and raised at the rear. The lead terminates in a D-plug which fits into one end of the interface, a black box about the same size as the mouse. At the other end, connected in the same manner, are two more leads. One of them is the connection to CTRL1, the other takes power from the ROM socket.

With the mouse connected and the QL switched on, EASE boots up in the usual way. Icons are displayed on the right of the screen and the pull-down menu bars accross the top. EASE is very much more window- and menu-orientated than ICE (the software which accompanies the Eidersoft Mouse). It is possible to exercise greater control over how information is presented. EASE can be customised to suit your particular requirements.

GigaBASIC is a package of Superbasic extensions. It is quite different from the two other available toolkits, QJUMP and SUPER 'B'. GigaBASIC is designed for the more general games and small business applications programmer. There are extensive sprite commands, allowing definition, saving and loading, moving, animation and sprite-to-sprite collision detection. In fact, the only feature which seems to be missing is sprite-to-background detection. In addition, there are a number of Mackintosh-style menu utilities. These allow for definition and placement of pull-down menus using either the cursor keys or the mouse. In addition, there are also a number of more general commands, tending to overlap with the other toolkits, including fill-any-regular shape, file handling, function key definition, digital/analogue clocks, an on-screen editor, Epson printer hard copy routine and font definition.

The ABC ELEKTRONIK MOUSE is available from INFORMATION ENTERPRISES for R315.00.

BETA BASIC NEWS

THE ZX MUSHROOM CLUB has the rights to sell and distribute the BETASOFT BETA BASIC newsletter in South Africa. Subscription is R20.00 for a year (6 issues). Newsletter number 5 went out in the past month. If you have Beta Basic 3.0, I sure you'd benefit by subscribing. Use the form on this page. Here is an extraction from the latest newsletter (a full 16 pages of help and tips!):

ITALIC PRINTING

Pauli Lindgren also sent a PROC to print italics which works similarly to the previous PROC bold. I have modified the FOR-NEXT loop that "smears" the text sideways - you might like to play with this too, in order to vary the effect.

```
200 DEF PROC italics t$,row,col
  DEFAULT col=33-PEEK 23688,row=24-PEEK 23689
  LOCAL x,y,n
  LET x=col*8,y=175-row*8
  PLOT OVER 2;x,y;t$
  FOR n=1 TO 7 STEP 2
    SCROLL 8;x,y;LEN t$+1,n
  NEXT n
  PRINT AT row,col+LEN t$;
END PROC
```

Pauli adds that you can get bold italics with something like:

```
BOLD "text",10,10: ITALICS "      ",10,10
```

3D HIGHLIGHTING

Once prodded by Stan Flynn, I realised that overplotting in various ways could produce some interesting effects. I expect readers will have their own ideas - but here is one of mine:

```
10 hilite BETA",0,87
```

```
200 DEF PROC hilite a$,x,y
  FOR n=0 TO 3
    PLOT CSIZE 32: OVER 1;x-n,y-n;a$
  NEXT n
  PLOT CSIZE 32: OVER 2;x-4,y-4;a$
END PROC
```

ORDER: BETA BASIC NEWSLETTER

Enclosed, please find a cheque./ postal order for R20.00, being subscription for one year (6 issues) to the Beta Basic newsletter.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

QL CORNER

The following screen dump for the Gemini and QL appeared in the October edition of Q1 world but as it stood it would not work with the Gemini. I have got it to work, made it compatible with Supercharge and shortened it considerably. As anyone who owns a Gemini will know, none of the printer drivers of Easel work. What I do is to compile this program as a task, change the boot program to load the task and then pressing the ALT key at anytime dumps the screen to the Gemini. This could also work with other programs. I have made the program a procedure called dump so if you wish to use it from Basic simply merge it with your program and call the procedure from within your program (don't forget to press ALT)

```
32000 REPEAT loop
32010 IF KEYROW(?)=4 THEN loop
32020 END REPEAT loop
32050 DEFINE PROCEDURE dump
32060 d=0: e=0
32090 OPEN #15, ser1: PRINT #15,
CHR$(27);"A";CHR$(8); CHR$(27);"U1"
32100 FOR i = 0 TO 126 STEP 2
32110 PRINT #15," ";
CHR$(27);"K";CHR$(0);CHR$(1)
32110 FOR ii=163712 TO 131072 STEP
-128
32130 c=i+11: wa= PEEK(c):
wb=PEEK(c+1): wa=wa;wb
32140 PRINT #15, CHR$(wa);
32190 END FOR ii: PRINT #15: END FOR i
32200 CLOSE #15
32210 END DEFINE
```

The following is a conversion of my polygon program from the Spectrum:

```
1 MODE 4
3 INPUT "Number of sides ";w
4 CLS
5 s=6.283152/w
8 POINT 75,95+PI
10 FOR n= 0 TO 6.283152 STEP s
20 LINE TO 75+SIN(n) * (PI+45),
50+COS(n) * (PI+45)
30 END FOR n
40 GO TO 3
```

- Stuart Crawshaw

PRICE NEWS

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PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SPECIAL OFFERS GIVEN IN THE NEWSLETTER APPLY FROM THE TIME YOU RECEIVE IT TO THE 15th OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE THE FIRST TO PHONE IN FOR THE SAGA REDUCED PRICE OFFER DURING THE PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS:

Frank Waterman, Pta
Derek Hohls, Durban
JJ du Plessis, Pta
RW Reid, QFS
S Smuts, Beacon Bay

Do you have a friend who owns a BBC?

Maybe he would be interested to know of the following items which IE have in stock and would like to clear.

PRACTICAL PROJECTS (BOOK) R7.95
LEARN BASIC PROGRAMMING R29.50
QFS DIOC INTERFACING KIT R195
MULTI TASKING FORTH ROM R99.50

The Amstrad 464.

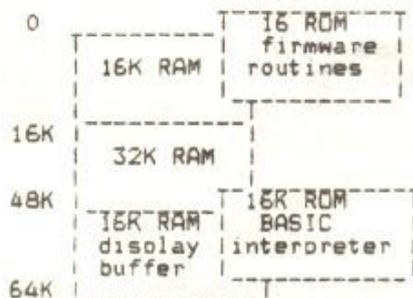
Amstrad users in South Africa are in a very unfortunate position not being able to get any information on their machines. Through this series I will try to make you understand your Amstrad a little better.

The Amstrad uses the faithful Z80A processor also being used in the Spectrum and older Sinclair machines. This processor has one drawback in that it can only address 64 Kilo-byte of memory. When the Z80 first appeared 10 years ago, this was considered massive.

To overcome this problem, Amstrad implemented the so called memory paging method. What this actually means is that the addressing range is shared by more than one memory device, with the assumption that devices sharing the same memory space could not be active simultaneously.

Paging therefore allows more memory in the same addressing range and like in the CPC464 can go up to 4 Mega-byte!

I will not go into the working of bytes and bits as this has been covered in many magazines and books lately. Instead we will continue with the description of the physical layout of the Amstrad range of computers.



AMSTRAD address mapping

From the layout above, it can be seen that the lower and upper 16K blocks in the memory map share the address space with the ROM. The Amstrad has been designed so that a write instruction will always address the RAM, while a read instruction could address ROM or RAM, depending on which one has been selected previously.

To see how this paging method would work in practice, let's consider the following example. When the Amstrad executes a program, the interpreter ROM would read the instructions from the lower 48K of RAM, so no confliction here. When a PRINT instruction is found, however, the display buffer is laying beneath the interpreter ROM. In this case a program in the firmware ROM is called to do the printing.

All the system or firmware routines are thus located in the firmware ROM. This includes all instructions that handle the Input/Output functions, eg. scanning the keyboard, printing and drawing as well as loading and saving on the tape recorder.

The firmware ROM contains routines of which only some are used by Basic. Included routines can be used by other languages (like Forth, Pascal, etc.) or your own programs. For example a tape verify function is included, but is not used by Basic.

Next month I will tell you more on how these programs can be used, but first some original Amstrad tips.

Before entering a program, type in the following line: POKE &ac00,1. You can now save up to 20% on program space! Who can figure out what this poke really does?

And for those fortunate chaos who own a legal copy of JET SET WILLY and can get a joystick in hand, here's a nice one. Load the game and when you finished admiring your Amstrad's sound capabilities, press enter to start. Next, type in the following password, ignoring the actions that may be caused by this. If you make a fault, then just press space, and start again.

HIEMMRAIDNAPRRRT

If you think that you have typed the password in correctly, press ESC once and observe. If you can hear something then try again, however, if you can see something just.....

Bye for now
SAD SAC

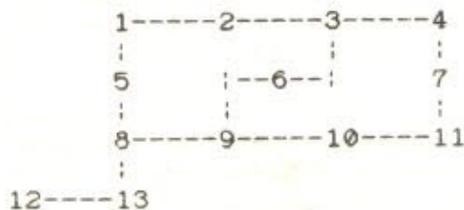
All AMSTRAD Users should have received a full AMSTRAD price list by now. If you missed out, send in a S.A.B. .

THE MUSHROOM CLUB CATERS FOR THREE 'mushrooming' COMPUTERS: → THE ZX SPECTRUM, THE QUANTUM LEAP (QL) AND THE AMSTRAD. OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER IS FREE, SPONSORED BY INFORMATION ENTERPRISES AND CONSIST OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS. SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO P.O. BOX 35644, MENLO PARK, 0102.

My friend and I have struggled for months to complete part 1 of FOURTH PROTOCOL, and now that we have reached part 2, we find we are completely stuck. Included is a map for part 2 and hints for the few problems we have solved. Could you please publish my plea for help!

THE FOURTH PROTOCOL
PART 2 - THE BOMB

THE TUBE MAP



- 1) Paddington
- 2) Great Portland Street
- 3) Euston
- 4) Barbican
- 5) Notting Hill Gate
- 6) Oxford
- 7) Liverpool Street
- 9) South Kensington
- 10) Victoria
- 11) Westminster
- 12) Heathrow
- 13) Boston

THE LIFT CODES

- Code 1) For Office lift at Euston
- ASPEN
- Code 2) For Office lift at Westminster
- 42431282

FOURTH PROTOCOL
FOURTH PROTOCOL

CLUES

You will first need your ID card from your office at Euston. Go to your second office at Westminster and show the guards your ID, they will show you in. Ask C's secretary for money and she will give you authorisation. You will need to go to the parliament building in Westminster to swap your authorisation for cash. This money will be needed to buy a camera at Boots in Oxford. In the building of your second office you should also pick up a geiger counter and a satellite briefcase. You can pick up a gun in the building, but I'm not sure what make to take. Take the satellite briefcase to Boston, where you will meet an old friend. While talking to him he will exchange the satellite briefcase for a tracer bug and receiver. The word svetofor, when translated on the language computer at the varsity, means traffic light. That's as far as I have gone in the game. If anybody can help, please write to me c/o The ZX Mushroom Club.

- Jade Hamburger

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A FINAL WARNING
VISITS TO I.E. ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Information Enterprises would like to thank those members who have complied with previous requests to make appointments before coming through to the showroom. There are still many people however who think that this applies to everybody else but not to them. It has been explained that I.E. is in danger of being forced to stop dealing with the public from their existing premises unless traffic outside is regulated. In addition clients get much better service when they are not part of a crowd which puts the assistants under unbearable pressure. Automatic gates are soon to be installed on the front boundary and these will not be opened unless an APPOINTMENT has been made, so please make sure that you do not make a wasted journey.

THANKS IN ANTICIPATION

HELP HINTS

T.E. Rothwell wrote: "I seem to have a problem with Tasword 2 whenever I use the move or copy functions. They work fine but when I attempt to print the printer remains silent or just moves the paper through without printing anything"

* This problem is due to a known 'bug' in Tasword 2. One can eliminate this by first SAVING before trying to print a document.

Mr D.W. Ashburner wants to know how to connect a Spectrum to a Spectravideo Monitor. If you know how, please let us know.

Mnr. H. L. Carelsen skryf dat hy OCP Word Manager gebruik en dat hy baie gelukkig is met die program. Die enigste probleem wat hy het is dat die program nie 'n kappie en deelteken fasiliteit het nie.

Ek het ongelukkig nie 'n Word Manager

tot my beskikking nie, maar as ek reg onthou is dit wel moontlik (soos met ander 'word processors') om 'graphics' te herdefinieer om bv. 'italics' op 'n drukker te druk. Een van die 'graphics' kan herdefinieer word (met CHR\$ 8) om sodoende 'n 'backspace' te doen. Dit beteken dat mens dan die "e" sal tik, dan die betrokke 'graphic', en dan die kappie of deelteken. Die drukker sal dan 'n 'backspace' doen na die "e", en die deelteken of kappie sal reg gedruk word.

Mark Eason writes that he has practically finished Dan Dare! He has done 4 of those SDS keys! Can anyone beat "Marvelous Mark?"

Derek Hols: "I wonder if you could help me with the following problem. I would like to know what interface / cable combination is necessary in order to use a Brother EP 22 portable typewriter as a printer for the Spectrum and at what price. Furthermore, would this set-up be compatible with the Tasword II word processing program?"

* I presume the EP 22 has a serial interface, in which case you could either use Interface One's serial port (with special software), or a ZXL PRINT interface with cable which will cost R139.00. It will be compatible with Tasword II.

If anyone could help W.J. Laburn with the following, we would be very grateful: "I have recently bought the Artist II program. Having created a picture, and came to printing it on my Brother HR-5, I found that it did not print. I have a ZXL Print interface connected to my printer. Could you please advice me on how to adapt the basic program that it will print both normal dumps and gray dumps."

* If you could get into Basic, a simple LPRINT CHR\$ 3: LPRINT CHR\$ 0; CHR\$ 3; should do. (I think)

Someone asked what the Multiface One is, and whether it will fit onto the 128K.

* The Multiface is a multipurpose interface, with fully automatic and universal 100% push-button back-up of any program to cartridge, disk, wafer or tape. It also includes a joystick interface and composite video interface. It is fully compatible with the 128K.

W. Rademan seeks help from members to put some life back into his adventures:

HAMPSTEAD: When I get the job at the bank, I read the memo on my desk, but can I open the file cabinet, and how?

FAIRLIGHT: How does one get past the second 'priest' in the Tower where one killed the first 'priest'? (That's the onne next to the cross-sign on the floor.)

C. Badenhorst wants to know whether anybody has pokes for infinite lives Dinamite Dan. Also, if anyone can help with a complete solution to Tir na Nog and Dun Darach he will be very thankful.

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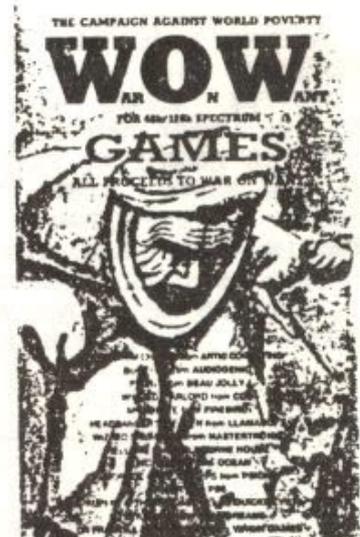
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OH BROTHER

I refer to the item in the February newsletter where Alfred Kew asks how to get into the underline mode when using an EP44.

Details are given in the lower half of Page 44 of the Instruction Manual, Section 4 - 2, "Control Codes". One must use ESC + E, (Codes 27 and 69) for underline, and to cancel this one uses ESC + R, (Codes 27 and 82).

Mr Kew might like to try the following example in normal basic on his Spectrum to see how it works on the EP44.

```
10 FORMAT "b";300: OPEN #3; "b"
20 LPRINT "This is"; CHR$ 27; CHR$
69;" underline";
   CHR$ 27; CHR$ 82
30 CLOSE #3
```

In line 10, the figure 300 is a baud rate.

I am not familiar with The Writer, but presumably it will have an option enabling a Spectrum Key to be used to represent the control codes, e.g. in Tasword II the menu enables one to define graphics. I find it useful to use graphic 1 to represent Codes 27

and 69 and graphic 2 to represent Codes 27 and 82. The graphic symbol can then be inserted into the text and will be interpreted correctly when it reaches the EP44. On the same page of the Instruction Manual the Codes are given for Superscript and Subscript.

L.G. Bee

THE POKE MASTER

Some POKES giving infinite lives in arcade games:

POKE 35136,0 : MANIC MINER
POKE 35899,0 : JET SET WILLY
POKE 36519,0 : ATIC ATAC

Also, some contributions to the adventure section of your mag. In QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL to get past the knight who utters 'NIC' give him the PINK SHRUBBERY which can be found in the kitchens in CAMELOT. He will then say 'CIN' and you will be save. DO NOT give him the SCHRUBBERY if you are carrying THE HOLY HAND GRANADE. In REDHAWK try arresting the mugger in the park to prove your worth to the cops. In the game THE INCREDIBLE HUNK to change into your hulking alter-ego simply BITE LIP. In NEVERENDING STORY to burn the bushes in part one, get the KNOBBLY BRANCH and light it at the campfire.

- L van der Walt

ADVERTISE

It costs 10c/word to advertise in the newsletter. Minimum 25 words. No commercial software may be advertised.

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